

EXHIBIT 6  
DATE 02/15/07  
#B 640

Subj: **HB 604**  
Date: 2/14/2007 4:24:32 P.M. Mountain Standard Time  
From: dlund@gpdinc.com  
To: WSGRINDE@AOL.COM

Dear Wanda:

Thank you for introducing HB 604. Below is an email that I have sent to two representatives. If I could help in some way, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Dana Lund

Please support House Bill 640, a bill that would correct the definition of 'public building'.

By enacting this correction in language, the definition of 'public building' will be aligned with what the common person all ready considers a 'public building'.

In changing the definition the result will be that construction drawings (blueprints) and specifications for 'public buildings' will be stamped and sealed by the appropriately licensed design professionals. By stamping and sealing these documents, the design professional takes legal responsibility for them. A typical set of construction documents would include architects, structural engineers, mechanical engineers, and electrical engineers, each taking legal responsibility for the design of the building. Public perception is likely that this is already the case.

Currently much of the building design being done in the State is being done by unlicensed people, often contractors. Contractors are licensed only to 'install' not 'design'. For example, the current law allows an electrician to produce construction drawings and specifications. Electricians are tested by the State of Montana for competence relating to the National Electrical Code, which is not a design document (2005 NEC 90.1 (C)). The electrical engineer in responsible charge of the project is held to standards that all codes impose (electrical code, building code, fire alarm code, life safety code, mechanical code, and energy code to name but a few that apply to nearly every building). Today's buildings are extremely complicated. When they are not designed properly, the occupants are placed at risk. There are numerous examples of tragedies that occur when the life safety systems of a building fail.

In Montana's case, it is particularly important that building designs be done by properly qualified design professionals. The building departments in every city and town that I am aware of are stretched to their limits. They simply do not have the resources to be the de facto design professional for every construction project in the State. The building department's function is to spot check construction for code compliance, not to take on the roll of the design professional.

I would like to point out that typical mechanical and electrical design fees for a commercial building are \$2.50 per square foot out of a total construction budget of \$125 per square foot. The costs associated with professional design are not unreasonable.

It is also important to point out that my comments only relates to 'public buildings'. This bill does not affect homeowners and agricultural buildings.

In closing, I would again urge you to support this bill. If you have any questions that I might be able to

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answer, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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